

Apparatus and method for butt-welding of planar metal sheets of different thickness, by means of a laser beam

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Abstract of EP0713746

An apparatus for butt-welding of planar metal sheets of different thickness, by means of a laser beam, has two sheet-holding plates (6) urging the metal sheets to be welded (3, 4) against a supporting structure (2), with their surfaces facing towards the laser focusing head (1) lying in the same plane and the opposite surfaces forming a step (13). Before the welding operation is carried out, when the sheet-holding plates are lowered, one of them causes a plastic deformation of one of the metal sheets to be welded, so as to move one portion thereof to become coplanar with the other metal sheet at the surface opposite to that facing towards the laser focusing head.

